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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 28 | Min 21 | Humidity 66% Mostly Cloudy Sensex 66,589 | Nifty 19,711 | Gold 59,100 | Silver 75,520 | Dollar 82.06 | Euro 92.11 | GBP 107.40

Nearly 90 hectares of forest land diverted in state this year for non-forestry purposes — including for mining, quarrying

DEATH BY A THOUSAND CUTS

Ecologists say rampant diversion in time of climate crisis may prove drastic

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Between April 2022 and March 2023, Karnataka diverted nearly 89.61 hectares of forest land for non-forestry purposes. Nearly 60% of this diversion (59.89 hectares) is for mining and quarrying projects and for 'other' purposes.

While 16.67 hectare has been diverted for four mining and allied projects, over 37 hectares of forest land was diverted for six projects for the construction of schools, laying of pipelines for drinking water supply to nearby villages and towns, establishment of small-scale industries, and construction of water treatment plants.

The total forest land diverted for mining and allied purposes this year is the highest compared to the annual land diversion for mining over the last four years.

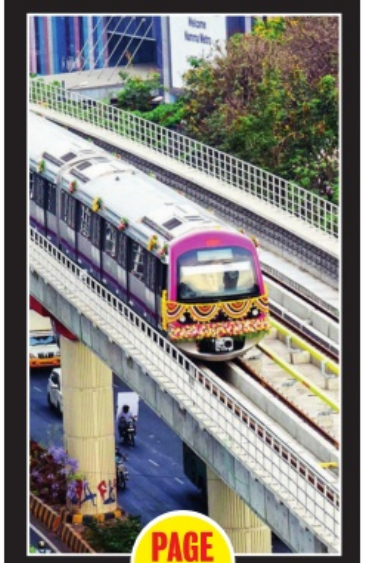
To date, the Karnataka Forest Department has redirected nearly 32,000 hectares of forest land for various non-forestry purposes such as irrigation, wind power, and allied projects, mining, and allied projects, linear infrastructure projects like road and railway tracks, putting up transmission lines, hydel power,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

"While the department is selling the concept of compensatory afforestation through CAMPA, saplings can never compensate for old-growth forest areas – City-based conservationist

METRO HICCUPS

Connectivity issues are plaguing metro ridership in city



PAGE 3

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Odissi rhythms

For the first time, Rabindranath Tagore's Natir Puja is set to be brought alive in the form of an Odissi dance drama in Bengaluru. Grab your seats to witness one of the most popular Odissi dancers, Sharmila Mukerjee, and her ensemble Sanjali, who will be showcasing their brand new production at 'The Dancer's Worship'.
Where: Bengaluru International Centre, 7, 4th Main Road, Domlur;
When: July 30; 6:30 pm onwards

02 Beauty of art

City's Gallery G is showcasing the mesmerising works on paper of the celebrated Indian artist VS Gaitonde this month. Each of his works is a unique moment of artistic expression and reflects his ability to evoke emotions. Gaitonde is known for his abstract paintings and emerged as an important figure during the 1950s.
Where: Gallery G, Lavelle Road
When: until July 28; 10 am to 6:30 pm

03 Musical act

Produced by Nalanda Arts Studio, Desdemona Roopakam is presented in English, Kannada, and Tamil with English subtitles. This theatre play is about the feminist narratives of the most renowned writer, Shakespeare's Othello, and a few Indian mythologies. The piece is directed by Abhishek Majumdar. **Where: Jagriti Theatre**
When: Saturday-Sunday, July 29-30

'Meet our needs, please'

BBMP pourakarmikas at a protest near CM Siddaramaiah's residence in Bengaluru on Monday

When your tummy talks...

City doctors report increase in number of diarrhoea cases; advise local authorities to take several steps to improve water quality during monsoon

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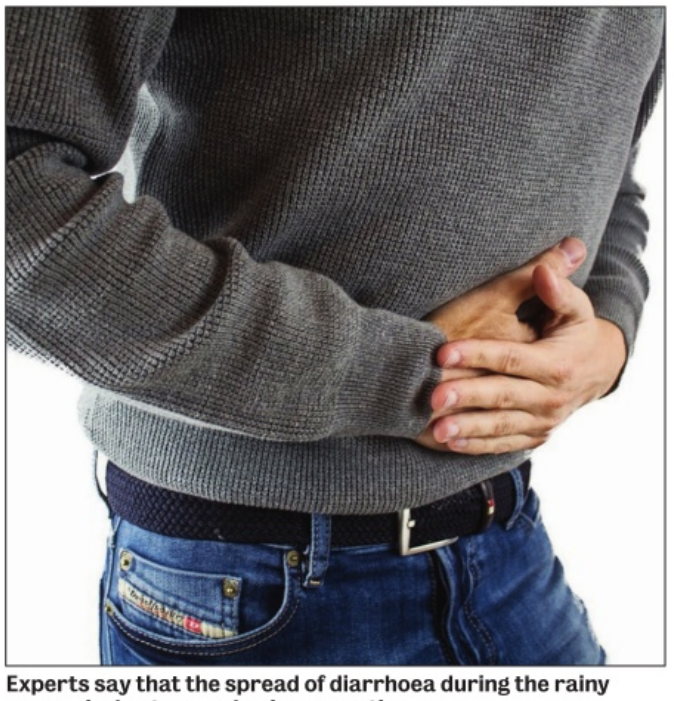
Due to the change in weather and the continuous rain in many parts of the city, there has been an increase in the number of diarrhoea cases reported. Many hospitals in the city have seen a rise in the number of cases in the past week.

Experts say that the spread of diarrhoea during the rainy season is due to contaminated water sources, inadequate sanitation facilities, poor hygiene practices, stagnant water, increased vector populations, and a higher risk of food contamination. These factors create an environment conducive to the transmission of diarrheal pathogens.

Dr Aditya Chowti, Senior Consultant-Internal Medicine, Fortis Hospital, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru, said, "Contaminated water sources and inadequate sanitation infrastructure significantly contribute to the escalation of diarrhoea cases during the monsoon. The heavy rainfall during this period poses a risk of water contamination, as it can lead to the mixing of sewage and waste with water sources. In the absence of proper sanitation facilities, the chances of faecal-oral transmission of diarrheal pathogens intensify, thereby heightening the overall risk of disease transmission."

Several pathogens and bacteria are commonly associated with monsoon-related diarrhoea, including Escherichia coli (E. coli), Salmonella, Vibrio cholerae, Rotavirus, and various parasites. The increased moisture and stagnant water during the rainy season create favourable conditions for the growth and transmission of these pathogens, leading to an elevated risk of diarrheal diseases.



Experts say that the spread of diarrhoea during the rainy season is due to poor hygiene practices

Many children have been missing out on college and school due to the illness.

Dr Parimala V Thirumalesh, Senior Consultant-Neonatology and Paediatrics, Aster CMI Hospital, has seen an increase in cases of 18–20 cases per week. "Watery loose stool multiple times is the main symptom of diarrhoea. It can be associated with dehydration, bloating, nausea, and stomach pain. Diarrhoea usually happens due to humidity and heavy rain, which cause water contamination and lead to the spread of stomach infections caused by bacteria and viruses. The diarrhoea-causing bacteria spread mainly through food and water that are contaminated by human faeces," she explained.

> **"The heavy rainfall during this period poses a risk of water contamination, as it can lead to the mixing of sewage**
> – Dr Aditya Chowti

Speaking on what measures the communities and local authorities can take, Dr Chowti added, "Communities and local authorities can take several steps to improve sanitation and water quality during the monsoon, thereby decreasing the incidence of diarrhoea. These include promoting hygiene education and practices, ensuring proper waste management and disposal, regular maintenance of drainage systems, enhancing water treatment and purification methods, conducting water quality testing, and providing access to clean drinking water and improved sanitation facilities."

Furthermore, experts said that it is important to have fruits during this time of the year as it can aid digestion and help strengthen the immune system.

Sushma PS, Chief Dietician, Jindal Naturecure Institute, Bengaluru, stressed the need to incorporate nutritious foods and fruits in the diet during the monsoon that will help in nourishment and detoxification.

"The immune-boosting properties of fruits are particularly valuable during the monsoon season. By including a variety of fruits in your diet, you provide your body with a range of vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants that strengthen your immune system. This fortification acts as a shield against the common monsoon diseases that thrive in this season, enhancing your resistance and overall well-being. It can provide the body with vital nutrients, supporting the body's functions and promoting vitality,"she added.

They can aid in digestion by promoting regular bowel movements and preventing constipation, and they can also help to eliminate toxins from the body, keeping your digestive system healthy and functioning optimally, she further added.

On lake patrol, alert marshals turn saviours of a life

BBMP marshals lose no time in bringing out young man lying in drain and restoring him to his senses with food, water, care

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Lalrinmuana, a 25-year-old from Aizawl in Mizoram, had a providential escape on Monday morning. BBMP marshals were patrolling the Bellandur Lake when they spotted Lalrinmuana inside a drain. The marshals swung into action and rescued the man, who had no idea how he got there.

The BBMP marshals team led by Marshal Guruprasad under the guidance of Captain Sadashiv Badiger rescued Lalrinmuana and took him to the BDA Site Office. They gave him a bath with hot water. "We gave him a bath as his clothes were dirty. We found a layer of dirt on his skin. He was not in a position to speak properly," said Marshal Guruprasad.

It is believed that Lalrinmuana came to Bellandur Lake on Sunday night. The marshals said that he could not tell them how he ended up in the drain in the buffer zone of Bellandur Lake. "He told us that he was working at a pub situated in Indiranagar but it is not clear whether he came alone or was brought by someone to Bellandur Lake on Sunday night," said Babu, a Marshal.

The marshals on duty provided Lalrinmuana breakfast and coffee. Later they contacted emergency number 112 requesting to send police or an ambulance vehicle to take him to a nearby Government Hospital for treatment.

Appreciating the marshals for rescuing the person from the drain, Captain Sadashiv Badiger said the marshals are known for rescuing people from being drowned at Bellandur and Varthur Lakes. "They have also retrieved bodies of those drowned in the water bodies," said Captain Sadashiv Badiger.

BBMP marshals and a pourakarmika help clean up Lalrinmuana after his rescue on Monday morning; Lalrinmuana was then helped onto an ambulance

Meanwhile, Lalrinmuana told this correspondent that he used to work at a pub situated at Indiranagar but lost job a few days ago. "The management removed a few people including me a few days ago. I lost my phone and I do not know how I came here," said Lalrinmuana.

His body was full of mosquito bites and it seemed he had not eaten food for one or two days. Many people appreciated the good work by the BBMP marshals. To Lalrinmuana's luck, there was no rain on Sunday night as if there were heavy rain, he could have been washed away in the drain.

It was a great relief for the BBMP marshals when the ambulance vehicle arrived at the spot.

BBMP Chief Marshal Colonel Jasbir Singh appreciated the marshals for the rescue work. "Our marshals have been doing good work and they will continue to do so," said Colonel Jasbir Singh.

Threat calls to Gadkari: IISc terror attack convict had visited Nagpur twice, say cops

Indian Institute of Science Bengaluru terror attack convict Afsar Pasha, who was has been held for alleged involvement in threat and extortion calls made to Union Minister Nitin Gadkari, had visited Nagpur on two occasions and details of his stay were being ascertained, a police official said on Monday.

Pasha, who was sentenced to life imprisonment in the 2005 terror attack on the prestigious educational facility in Karnataka, was brought from Belagavi jail to Nagpur on Saturday in connection with the threat-extortion calls.

Pasha has visited Nagpur two times, including in 2003-04, and details of his stay and activities during this period are being ascertained, the official said.

A probe began after a threat and extortion call seeking Rs 100 crore was received on January 14 this year at the Nagpur-based public relations office of Gadkari.

Another such call was received on March 21 and the probe zeroed in on Jayesh Pujari, a convict lodged in Belagavi jail in the southern state, police had said.

Pujari was brought to Nagpur on March 28 and two cases were registered against him under provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and Indian Penal Code at Dhantoli police station.

As per police, the probe revealed a connection between Pujari and Afsar Pasha, who was involved in terror activities in Jammu and Kashmir and was also convicted in a 2012 case for recruiting operatives for the banned Lashkar-e-Taiba there. **PTI**

'Caught cheating', student kills self

A 19-year-old BTech student is said to have died by suicide at his college. It is said that the student, Aditya Prabhu, had been caught cheating in an exam. Unable to take this, Aditya allegedly jumped from the eighth storey of the college building, according to the police. Aditya allegedly was carrying a phone with him and was discovered using it during the exam. "On Monday, a PES college student committed suicide by jumping from the eighth level of the college building. The deceased was a Mangaluru native. A case has been reported," said P Krishnakant, DCP South.

Study reveals why all are not aboard Namma Metro

The Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation's (BMRCL) actual ridership has not even touched 50% of its projected ridership in 2022. A World Resource Institute (WRI) survey with Toyota Mobility Foundation says lower-than-projected ridership is primarily due to the high cost of first- and last-mile connectivity.

The survey of metro commuters conducted in Delhi, Nagpur, and Bengaluru highlights that while Bengaluru has the second-best daily ridership after New Delhi, the city lacks an affordable first and last-mile connectivity system such as the shared auto-rickshaw model in other cities in India.

"The lack of shared auto-rickshaws in Bengaluru was made up for by an increased dependence on walking and regular auto-rickshaws. In Bengaluru, 66% of commuters surveyed walked or cycled to the metro. This was followed by auto-rickshaws, at a distant 10%," said researchers from WRI.

The research also points out that namma metro attracts a specific demographic, which is commuters aged between 19 and 35 years and they use this mode of transport to commute for work or education.

Bengaluru metro also attracts primarily commuters with monthly household incomes between Rs 10,000 and Rs 40,000.

The survey was conducted at Banashankari, Baiyyappanahalli, Cubbon Park, Indiranagar, Nayandahalli, and Yeshwanthpur and involved 1,800 respondents across all the stations. Analysis of the data collected showed that 88% of metro commuters in Bengaluru are in the age group of 19 to 35. Moreover, 59% of the commuters earned between Rs 10,000 and Rs 40,000 monthly.

"Our findings also show that more affluent users (with personal vehicles) are yet to shift to the metro, and low-income users generally use more economical modes. Data also shows that while women travel marginally shorter distances than men, they pay more than men for their first and last-mile commutes. This is possibly due to concerns about wait time," said the researcher.

Experts say given the strong price sensitivity across users, low-cost last-mile services such as cycling tracks and pedestrian infrastructure should be prioritised at metro stations. Moreover, lower-income users should be attracted to the metro through targeted fare products. **BMB**

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Rain exposes fragile roads

BWSSB at it again, digs up roads, leaves Kanakapura residents in the pits

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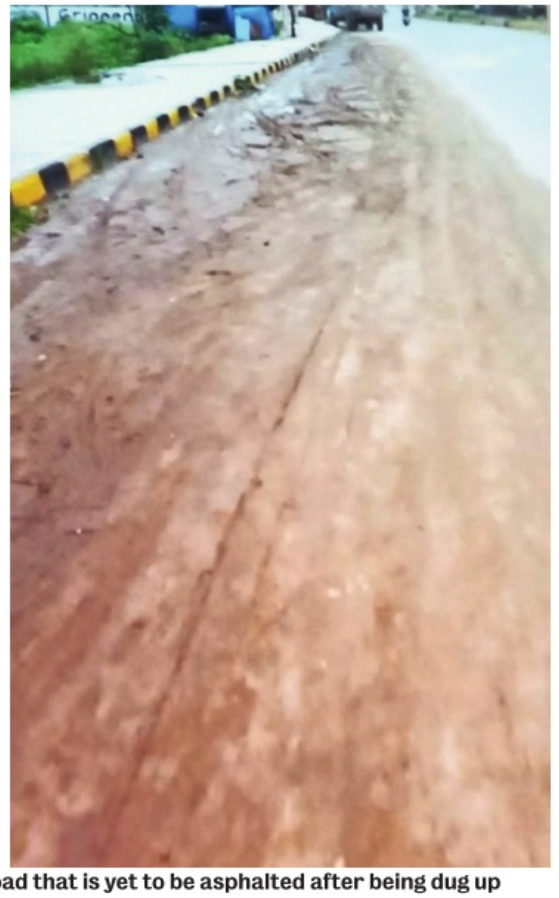
The residents of Kanakpura 100 feet road highlight the poor quality of the roads and the improper drainage system on the roads resulting in water logging. The road was dug up to carry out the Bangalore Water Supply Sewerage Board (BWSSB) Cauvery pipeline work and the residents and commuters could not access the stretch easily for over two years. The works were completed this year and two months ago the road was asphalted.

The road was taken up for two years by BWSSB to carry out pipeline work where they had dug up portions leading to many accidents at that stretch. Some of the commuters stopped taking the route due to the bad condition.

According to the residents, this road serves as a major route wherein many commuters use the stretch to connect to Kengeri via Banshankari 6th stage to Mysore Road and from Kengeri to Kanakpura Road.

Although the residents complained to the BDA officials regarding the poor quality of work, no action was taken. The footpath restoration work in the area is also left incomplete. Srivasta, a resident of the area said, "We fought for over two years for a good quality road after the BWSSB started to dig it. And after two years we got an asphalted road which has not even lasted well for 60 days.

Apart from this, there is no proper drainage system and there is constant waterlogging. Now since it is the rainy season there is water logging in from the house and it takes a long time for the water to recede. This causes mosquito breeding and silt accumulation on the road that results in accidents."



Water logging following rains at Kanakpura 100 feet road that is yet to be asphalted after being dug up

> **"We fought for over two years for a good quality road after the BWSSB started to dig it. And a we got a road which has not lasted for 60 days** – Srivatsa, resident of area

Another resident said, "The footpath work is half done and there are several encroachments on the footpath like many petty shops. The footbath constructed also is on a high raised which is a problem for the elderly citizens.

They cannot climb and access the footpath easily. We have been complaining to the officials about these issues but so far we don't see any results." While BM tried reaching out to the BDA engineer officials of the Kanakpura division, they were unresponsive.

Biggest open mobility hackathon is here

Namma Yatri, ONDC join hands to hear innovative solutions from citizens

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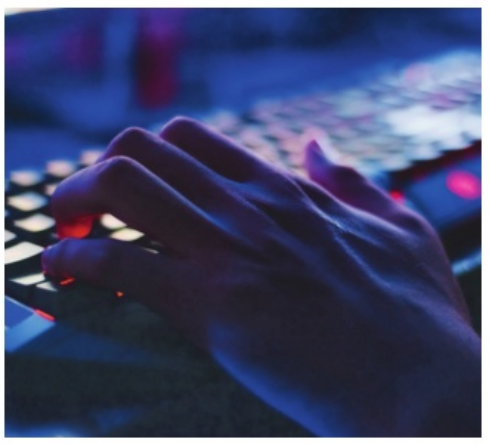
Namma Yatri, a mobility application based in the city, joined hands with ONDC (Open Network for Digital Commerce) earlier this year to organise Bengaluru's biggest open mobility challenge – a hackathon, providing a platform for citizens from all walks of life to come together and channel their energy and ideas towards finding innovative solutions. The event aimed to improve the city's transport system and the lives of drivers by fostering a culture of community participation and empowerment.

Spanning for over 45 days, the hackathon has garnered more than 4 million visits, 1.7 lakh people and 70,980 teams eagerly participating. It brought together students, professionals, and individuals collaborating to achieve a common goal.



Spanning for over 45 days, the hackathon has garnered more than 4 million visits, 1.7 lakh people and 70,980 teams participating

Participants showcased their creativity, empathy, and problem-solving abilities to tackle the pressing issues faced by the city and its auto drivers.

Nitin Nair, Senior Vice President of ONDC, told Bangalore Mirror, "The event demonstrated the citizens' commitment to developing sustainable, inclusive, and efficient mobility solutions that would benefit the entire city and community. This gives us hope to transform the future of mobility, fostering a sense of ownership and active participation."

> **"The event demonstrated the citizens' commitment to developing sustainable, inclusive, and efficient mobility solutions for city's benefit** – Nitin Nair, Open Network for Digital Commerce

"It is inspiring to witness the community come together to create mobility solutions. A few entries like ride booking through Whatsapp, co-pilot for auto drivers, and QR code-based auto meters are noteworthy. We take this opportunity to thank all the participants for their time and effort. Through active participation and collaboration, people have proven that innovative solutions can be achieved when working towards a common goal," said Shan MS, Chief Growth Officer, Juspay.

Namma Yatri and ONDC said that they are committed to nurturing and implementing solutions that have emerged from the hackathon.

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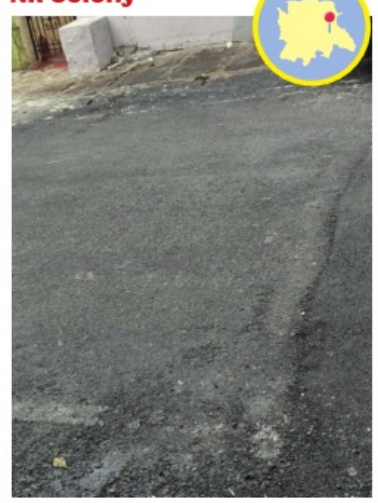
Free the footpaths

Royan Circle

Vehicles parked on the footpath at Royan Circle, Chamarajpet cause difficulties for students and pedestrians.

Unfinished work

NR Colony



With only half of the road completed, the tar laying work on 2nd Cross NR Colony remains incomplete.

Shops under water

Shivaji Nagar

Shops near Taj Hotel, opposite the Jumma Masjid complex in Shivaji Nagar, have been flooding during the rains for the past three years.

Pending: Pedestrian crossing in these areas

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While the residents of Kasavanahalli and Haralur have been asking for a high-rise pedestrian crossing (HRPC) for several years, as it serves as a major traffic junction, no action has been taken so far. Back in 2019 and 2020, the HSR Layout traffic police station had also highlighted the need for HRPC and asked for BBMP to initiate the process. However, even after approval, no work was carried out on the ground.

The residents pointed out that over eight HRPCs were approved to be installed. In the year 2019, BBMP, in its order, approved installing a HRPC near the Owners Court Layout.

A high-rise pedestrian crossing is required at Kasavanahalli road

Another one is to be installed near Amrutha College, and the other two are close to Reliance Trends and Amrutha College. However, the HRPC work was not carried out.

The HRPC are flat-top speed humps with a crosswalk mark that help pedestrians safely cross the road and also act as speed breakers.

In 2020, HSR traffic police highlighted that the Haralur and Kasavanahalli roads are busy roads with commercial buildings, hotels, schools, and complexes; however, the road is lacking scientific humps.

The problem here was that the motorists on the routes were found to go too high during the non-peak hours, and pedestrians who had to cross the road from one end to another were finding it very difficult on a regular basis.

When the residents were following up with the HRPC to be installed, they alleged that the BBMP delayed the process, stating that the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has been carrying out underground pipeline work that was taken up for 110 villages. As many roads were dug up for the BWSSB work, the laying of HRPC was not possible. However, even after the work was completed over eight months ago and the road has now been completely asphalted, the localities have still not gotten the HRPC at the junctions.

Two days ago, the Janasamparka meeting was held by the Bellandur traffic police along with the residents of different resident welfare associations. The residents highlighted the issue of how the many elderly and school kids are at risk every day of crossing the busy junction due to the oversleeping of vehicles, especially autos, tankers, and cab drivers.

Vishnu Prasad from Kasavanahalli Development Forum told BM that the Bellandur traffic police is very short-staffed. "Most of the staff they have are busy manning the Outer Ring Road, and these localities like Haralur, Kasavanahalli, and Sarjapur are missing out on traffic management. When there is no traffic management, vehicles are speeding on these junctions as there is no traffic lights," he said.

BBMP sets ambitious tax target this year

Civic agency aims for 50 per cent increase in revenue collection

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The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is now aiming to collect 50% more tax than the previous year, but the big question remains whether it can achieve this ambitious target.

BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath made an announcement regarding the revised tax target for this year. He mentioned, "On Monday, we had a stock-taking meeting with zonal commissioners and chief engineers. Our main focus is to boost the civic agency's revenue and generate more income, so we have set new targets for each zone. These targets are 50% higher than last year's, and all eight zones have received increased targets. While we may even surpass the 50% goal, our immediate aim is to achieve at least that. In the previous financial year, we collected Rs 3,332.72 crore, and this time, our target is Rs 4,567 crore. We will monitor progress weekly and continue reviewing it."

In light of this, a stern warning was issued to revenue officers. Failure to meet the targets could lead to consequences such as transfers to other zones or being assigned non-executive positions. In June, despite offering a 5% concession, BBMP managed to collect only Rs 465 crore. Typically, BBMP provides this concession to those who pay property tax in April, extending it until May-end.

However, due to the election code of conduct, the concession couldn't be extended in May. After the new government took over, the concession was offered again from June 2 to June 30. Interestingly, tax collection in May (without the concession) outperformed June (with the concession). In May this year, BBMP collected Rs 554 crore. As of June-end for the financial year 2023–24, the total tax collection by BBMP was Rs 2,245.17 crore. Among the zones, Mahadevapura contributed the highest tax collection of Rs 591.18 crore, followed by Bengaluru East zone (Rs 415.98 crore), South (Rs 358.94 crore), West (Rs 248.39 crore), Bommanahalli (Rs 231.89 crore), Yelahanka (Rs 185.56 crore), RR Nagar (Rs 149.73 crore), and the lowest collection was in Dasarahalli (Rs 64.50 crore).

In the previous financial year, BBMP collected Rs 3,332.72 crore, and this time, the target is Rs 4,567 crore

Rain preparedness

Regarding rain preparedness, BBMP has identified 198 sensitive areas, while KSNDMC provided a report on 226 locations. Although there is some overlap, the details provided by KSNDMC focused on flood-prone areas, whereas BBMP officials identified specific points. To combat flooding in road areas, they plan to install pump sets to flush out water during heavy rainfall.
Nath said, "Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar has set a target for the BBMP—within the first 100 days of the Congress government, they must make the city blackspot-free. To achieve this, marshals, officials, and coordination will be utilised to eliminate blackspots, fix footpaths, and tackle illegal garbage dumping."

A senior BBMP official emphasised the need for a complete revamp of the property tax collection procedure. To achieve this, they plan to verify all self-assessment scheme (SAS) declarations for major commercial buildings in 2023–24. These SAS returns will be cross-referenced with documents from other state agencies using appropriate software, with the expectation of significantly increasing property tax collection.

> **On Monday, we had a stock-taking meeting with zonal commissioners and chief engineers. Our main focus is to boost the revenue and generate more income**
>
> –Tushar Giri Nath, BBMP

Explaining the increase in property tax revenue last year compared to 2021–22, the official mentioned that the rise was due to plugging leaks and identifying revenue sources. A project was undertaken to identify owners who were paying commercial rates to BESCOM and other state agencies while declaring residential property tax payments. This initiative uncovered 12,699 cases, leading to an additional tax levy of Rs 134 crore, with expectations of another Rs 250 crore in additional taxes. In the past years, BBMP's tax collection was as follows: Rs 2,529 crore in 2018–19, Rs 2,659 crore in 2019–20, Rs 2,860 crore in 2020–21, and Rs 3,088 crore in 2021–22. For 2022–23, the estimated tax revenue was Rs 4,189 crore, but the actual collection was Rs 3,332.72 crore.

In light of financial considerations, there have been reports of illegal khatas (property titles) being obtained by numerous individuals. Nath acknowledged this issue, stating, "Around 12,000 people have obtained a khata illegally, although they are eligible only for a B khata. Zonal commissioners are preparing a report, and action will be taken, converting these khatas to B khatas."

Govt decides to inspect BYJU'S

The corporate affairs ministry has ordered an inspection of the books of BYJU'S, a senior government official said on Monday, amid the edtech major facing multiple headwinds, including delays in submitting financial statements and concerns over corporate governance issues.

The inspection of Bengaluru-based Think & Learn Pvt Ltd, which operates under the brand BYJU'S, will be carried out by the ministry, which is implementing the companies law.

The ministry decided to carry out the inspection after taking note of the developments, including that the company has been unable to finalise its financial statements and that its auditor has resigned, the official told PTI.

Earlier this month, the ministry asked the office of the Regional Director in Hyderabad to conduct an inspection of the company, which is registered in Bengaluru, the official said.

The official also said that a further course of action would be decided after receiving the inspection report.

A query sent to BYJU'S seeking comments on the inspection remained unanswered.

Think & Learn Pvt Ltd was incorporated on November 30, 2011. The last Annual General Meeting of the company was held on September 19, 2022, as per data available with the ministry.

In recent months, the edtech major has been grappling with multiple issues, including concerns over its corporate governance practices.

Audit firm Deloitte resigned as an auditor of BYJU'S citing a delay in submitting financial statements, while simultaneously three of its board members resigned, which indicated the deepening of the crisis at the edtech firm.

Deloitte Haskins & Sells, which was slated to audit BYJU'S until 2025, stepped down with "immediate effect" mid-term, stating that "the financial statements of the company are long delayed." –PTI

Power crisis in state: Hydel and thermal stations face setbacks

Deficit rainfall leads to decreased hydel power generation while technical issues plague Raichur Thermal Power Plant

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Though the situation at hydel stations is grim solar and wind energy are adding to the power supply

The state is facing a severe power crisis as a result of deficient rainfall, causing a decline in hydel power generation, thereby transferring the load on the thermal stations. On the other hand, the four units of Raichur Thermal Power Station (RTPS) have shut down. On Sunday, four units of RTPS shut down due to a technical snag. Concerns are rising that if these issues persist, the power supply across the state may be severely impacted. The deficit in rainfall has significantly affected power generation at hydel power plants, even during the peak monsoon season.

The situation at hydel stations is grim. Linganamakki, constructed across the Sharavathi River, has a gross water storage capacity of 151.75 TMC, but it has only 24.04 TMC, which means only 16% of the storage capacity is filled. On the other hand, Supa has a gross capacity of 145.33 TMC but has only 34.96 TMC, which is just 24%, and Varahi has a gross capacity of 31.10 TMC and has just 4.78 TMC, which is a poor 15% storage. Currently, the power demand is 12,010 MW. Out of this, 137 MW is supplied from Sharavti, 32 MW from Supa, and 28 MW from Varahi. Thankfully, solar and wind energy are adding to the power supply. Around 4,500 MW of power is being procured from these renewable energy sources. Additionally, 2,828 MW of power is available from the Central grid.

> **"Till now, K'taka is facing 26% of rainfall deficiency for this monsoon. In coastal areas, the deficiency is 14%, while 34% and 36% deficiency in north and south interior"** –A Prasad

Overall, there are eight units in RTPS. The first unit has been shut down for a year due to issues related to coal supply bunkers. The second unit had shut down due to a technical snag. Due to this, out of the 1,720-megawatt power generation capacity at RTPS, only 447 megawatts of power are generated. The third and sixth units have been shut down due to leakage in boiler tubes. Till recently, RTPS was generating 1,198 MW of power from three units, and 985 MW of power was generated from YTPS's two units, which were added to the state grid. CM Diwakar, executive director of RTPS, Raichur, said, "The first unit is shut for more than a year due to issues with coal supply bunkers. The sixth unit has been repaired. We are trying to fix the issues at the earliest."

A Prasad, scientist from IMD, said, "Till now, Karnataka is facing 26% of rainfall deficiency for the monsoon from June 1 till July 17. In coastal areas, the deficiency is 14%, while it is 34% and 36% deficiency in north and south interior regions respectively. In the entire state, only three districts - Bengaluru City, Vijayanagar, and Chitradurga - have received more than the average rainfall. Bengaluru has received 23% excess rainfall. Vijayanagar has received 21% excess rainfall, and Chitradurga has received 43%. 13 districts have received average rainfall, and the rest have received lower-than-expected rainfall.

Surprisingly, the districts like Kodagu, Chikkamaglauru, Hassan, and Shivamogga, which feed major rivers, have received less rainfall. The rain deficiency is as high as 44 to 64% rainfall. Now, the only hope is that the monsoon may get activated between July 21 to August 1. Coastal areas, western ghats, and the north interior may bring more rainfall than average. We expect the rain deficiency may come down. A trough along the coastal areas is weakening, and winds from the western side are expected to strengthen, potentially leading to rainfall in coastal regions. Kodagu, Shivamogga, and Chikkamagaluru will have a yellow alert for the next three days. Bengaluru may receive light to moderate rainfall for the next few days. Surface winds may be at 30 to 35 mph, and the sky may be cloudy. The temperature will hover between 21 and 28 degrees Celsius. Castle Rock had the highest rainfall of 10 cm, and there was no major rainfall in any of the areas."

Foxconn expands plant in Karnataka

Foxconn, a major iPhone assembler for Apple, has submitted a proposal to set up a supplementary plant in addition to its existing unit at the Devanahalli Information Technology Investment Region (ITIR) in Karnataka, as announced by MB Patil, the state's Large and Medium Industries Minister.

The proposal was discussed in a high-level meeting chaired by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah with delegates from Foxconn Industrial Internet (Fii), headed by its CEO, Brand Cheng.

As per the proposal, Fii, a subsidiary of Foxconn (formally known as Hon Hai Precision Industry Co. Ltd), has a plan to invest Rs 8,800 crore. "This would create 14,000 jobs and the land required for the project is about 100 acres," Patil said.

In order to evaluate the available land, Fii delegates will be taken to Tumakuru, the Japan Industrial Township near the district headquarters town. The Information Technology Minister Priyank Kharge and Chief Secretary Vandita Sharma were also present in the meeting.

"Fii will engage in manufacturing screens, and outer coverings apart from making mechanical components needed for phones. This would operate as a supplementary plant to the 'end assembly' unit at Devanahalli (ITIR)", the Minister said in a statement.

MB Patil tweeted that the state's readiness to fully support the project by offering the necessary land for the manufacturing unit. The Japanese Industrial Park near (the district headquarters town of) Tumakuru, which covers 100 acres, has been identified as a potential location for the plant.

Patil said on Thursday the process of handing over land to Apple Inc supplier and Taiwanese electronics manufacturing giant Foxconn, for its mobile devices manufacturing unit at Devanahalli ITIR is in "final stages."

"Foxconn is coming up in about 300 acres. The process of handing over land is in the final stages, there were some issues, so I have personally held meetings four times in this regard, as we did not want to lose the project. Foxconn, which manufactures Apple phones, is very prestigious for us," the Minister had said.

"Foxconn will invest USD one billion, which is Rs 8,400 crore, and will create 50,000 employment in the first phase (at the Devanahalli ITIR)," Patil said. **–PTI**

Leaders from 24 parties attend opposition meeting

The leaders from 24 political parties arrived in Bengaluru on Monday afternoon to attend an opposition meeting as an attempt to outline strategy against the BJP for the upcoming 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

The leaders include Congress Parliamentary Party Chairperson Sonia Gandhi, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, and party leader Rahul Gandhi. The Congress leadership was welcomed at HAL airport by Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

Other prominent leaders who arrived at Bengaluru are West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin, Rashtriya Lok Dal President Jayant Chaudhary, and former Jammu and Kashmir chief ministers Farooq Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee was welcomed by Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar at the Bengaluru airport, while Akhilesh Yadav was received by Minister of Large and Medium Industries MB Patil and Minister for Women and Child Welfare Laxmi Hebbalkar at HAL airport.

Siddaramaiah said that this is the second meeting in which leaders of about 24 political parties are taking part.

CM's first meeting in Bihar and second in B'luru were successful

"The BJP has destroyed the country's economy. Since PM Modi came to power, inflation has reached an all-time high. Farmers, Dalits, and the poor are struggling to make a living. Communalism is rampant, and people live in fear," Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said.

Responding to criticism about all parties uniting to defeat PM Modi, the Chief Minister cited their successful opposition against him in Karnataka, stating, "Wherever PM Modi has campaigned, the Congress party has emerged victorious. Despite his 28 visits here, we have won. The downfall of the BJP began in Karnataka."

Regarding the JD(S), the Chief Minister remarked, "After aligning with the BJP, they have lost their own ideology." Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has also realised his mistake of joining hands with the BJP.

"The saffron party will not get a majority in the upcoming elections. The BJP will bite the dust this time," he said.

The first opposition meeting in Bihar on June 23, was successful. **–IANS**

HEALTH TIP: Practising mindfulness could reduce the pain felt by migraine sufferers

Mint plants contain an antioxidant and anti-inflammatory agent called rosmarinic acid, which can help reduce symptoms of asthma

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Sweet killer?

What the WHO listing on aspartame means for your diet soft drink habit

The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), which is the specialised cancer agency of the World Health Organisation, has declared aspartame may be a possible carcinogenic hazard to humans.

Another branch of the WHO, the Joint WHO and Food and Agriculture Organisation's Expert Committee on Food Additives has assessed the risk and developed recommendations on how much aspartame is safe to consume. They have recommended the acceptable daily intake be 0 to 40mg per kilo of body weight.

A hazard is different to a risk. The hazard rating means it's an agent that is capable of causing cancer; a risk measures the likelihood it could cause cancer.

So what does this hazard assessment mean for you?

Firstly, what is aspartame?

Aspartame is an artificial sweetener that is 200 times sweeter than sugar, but without any kilojoules.

It's used in a variety of products including carbonated drinks such as Coke Zero, Diet Coke, Pepsi Max and some home brand offerings. You can identify aspartame in drinks and foods by looking for additive number 951.

Food products such as yogurt and confectionery may also contain aspartame, but it's not stable at warm temperatures and thus not used in baked goods.

Commercial names of aspartame include Equal, Nutrasweet, Canderel and Sugar Twin. In Australia the acceptable daily intake is 40mg per kilo of body weight per day, which is about 60 sachets.

In America the acceptable daily intake has been set at 75 sachets.

What evidence have they used to come to this conclusion?

IARC looked closely at the evidence base from around the world – using data from observational studies, experimental studies and animal studies.

They found there was some limited evidence in human studies linking aspartame and cancer (specifically liver cancer) and limited evidence from animal studies as well.

They also considered the biological mechanism studies which showed how cancer may develop from the consumption of aspartame. Usually these are lab-based studies which show exactly how exposure to the agent may lead to a cancer. In this case they found there was limited evidence for how aspartame might cause cancer.

There were only three human studies that looked at cancer and aspartame intake. These large observational studies used the intake of soft drinks as an indicator of aspartame intake.

All three found a positive association between artificially sweetened beverages and liver cancer in either all of the population they were studying or sub-groups within them. But these studies could not rule out other factors that may have been responsible for the findings.

A study conducted in Europe followed 475,000 people for 11 years and found that each additional serve of diet soft drink consumed per week was linked to a 6% increased risk of liver cancer. However the scientists did conclude that due to the rarity of liver cancer they still had small numbers of people in the study.

In a study from the US, increased risk of liver cancer was seen in people with diabetes who drank more than two or more cans of a diet soda a week.

The third study, also from the US, found an increase in liver cancer risk in men who never smoked and drank two or more artificially sweetened drinks a day.

From this they have decided to declare aspartame as a Group 2b "possible carcinogen". But they have also said more and better research is needed to further understand the relationship between aspartame and cancer.

> **Aspartame declared as a Group 2b "possible carcinogen", but scientists said more and better research is needed**

IARC has four categories (groupings) available for potential substances (or as they are referred to by IARC, "agents") that may cause cancer.

What does each grouping mean?

Group 1 Carcinogenic to humans: an agent in this group is carcinogenic, which means there is convincing evidence from human studies and we know precisely how it causes cancer. There are 126 agents in this group, including tobacco smoking, alcohol, processed meat, radiation and ionising radiation.

Group 2a Probably carcinogenic to humans: there are positive associations between the agent and cancer in humans, but there may still be other explanations for the association which were not fully examined in the studies. There are 95 agents in this group, including red meat, DDT insecticide and night shift work.

Group 2b Possibly carcinogenic in humans: this means limited evidence of causing cancer in humans, but sufficient evidence from animal studies, or the mechanism of how the agent may be carcinogenic is well understood. This basically means the current evidence indicates an agent may possibly be carcinogenic, but more scientific evidence from better conducted studies is needed. There are now 323 agents in this group, including aloe vera (whole leaf extract), ginkgo biloba and lead.

Group 3 Not classifiable as a carcinogen: there's not enough evidence from humans or animals, and there is limited mechanistic evidence of how it may be a carcinogen. There are 500 agents in this group.

So do I have to give up my diet soft drink habit?

For a 70kg person you would need to consume about 14 cans (over 5 litres) of soft drink sweetened with aspartame a day to reach the acceptable daily intake.

But we need to remember there may also be aspartame added in other foods consumed. So this is an unrealistic amount to consume, but not impossible.

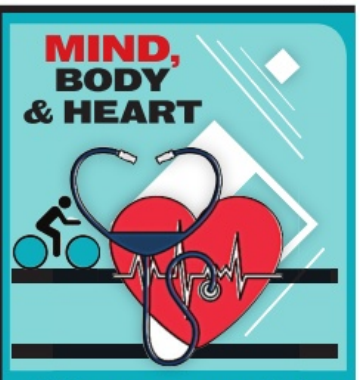
We also need to consider all the evidence on aspartame together. The foods we typically see aspartame in are processed or ultra-processed, which have recently also been shown to be detrimental to health.

And artificial sweeteners (including aspartame) can make people crave more sugar, making them want to eat more food, potentially causing them to gain more weight.

All together, this indicates we should be more careful about the amount of artificial sweeteners we consume, since they do not provide any health benefits, and have possible adverse effects.

But overall, from this evidence, drinking the occasional or even daily can of a diet drink is safe and probably not a cancer risk.

(By Evangeline Mantzioris, University of South Australia, The Conversation)



All you need to know about...

Pet parenting tips

Choose The Right Pet
Before bringing the pet home, do some research on the type of pet you would like to look after. It depends on the time that you can give them, the potential expenses, and the conditions that they will live in. Consider factors such as size, exercise needs, grooming requirements, and temperament.

Find A Vet
It is important to find a veterinary healthcare provider in or close to your locality. As soon as you bring your pet home, it is advisable to get a preliminary examination of your pet done by a vet..

Prep
Make your home pet-safe and pet-friendly by creating designated areas for your pet. Remove any potential hazards or toxic substances, secure loose wires or cords, and set up a comfortable sleeping area with a bed or crate.

Nourishing Diet
Consult with your veterinarian to determine the appropriate diet and portion sizes for your pet's specific needs. Do not indulge in over feeding and avoid making treats a part of their diet.

Exercise And Grooming Needs
Pets need both mental and physical stimulation to stay happy and healthy. Engage in regular playtime sessions.

Create A Routine
Just like young children need to be put on a schedule, pets are managed better with such routines. Create a daily schedule for feeding, exercise, playtime, and bathroom breaks.

– Femina

140 mining projects sanctioned so far in state on forest land

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

quarrying and many other activities.

A big portion of this (nearly 32%) has again been for mining and allied work. As many as 140 mining projects on forest land have been sanctioned in the state so far.

Ecologists and environmentalists say given the ongoing climate crisis, the diversion of more and more forest land will only lead to degradation of forest ecology and biodiversity.

As per the National Forest Policy of India, at least 33% of the given geographical area should be under forest cover to maintain ecological stability. Karnataka currently has about 20.19% of its total land under green cover.

"Given the current situation, even a single inch of forest land diversion should be considered criminal. While the department is selling the concept of compensatory afforestation through CAMPA, saplings can never compensate for old-growth forest areas. To reach the level of carbon sequestration and ecosystem services provided by old-growth forests, these saplings will require hundreds of years. Looking at the current extreme weather events, we do not have that time on our hands," said a city-based conservationist.

Conservationists also highlight that the Forest (Conservation) Amendment Bill of 2023 is a looming threat to Karnataka's deemed forests too. Karnataka has recently notified 3,30,186.23 hectares (8.16 lakh acres) as deemed forest and experts say the proposed bill will aid diversion of deemed forest for non-forestry purposes.

According to Joseph Hoover, president of United Conservation Movement and former member of the State Wildlife Board, multiple cases of exploitation of forest areas owing to confusion over boundaries have been highlighted by activists in the recent past. These include no objection certificates granted by the Deputy Conservator of Forest for commercial activities, including mining in deemed forest areas that include part of revenue land.

"It is important for the government to get revenue and forest department officials to come together and sort out the confusion over boundaries. If not, forest areas will continue to be exploited. These confusions crop up primarily due to the recalcitrant attitude of revenue officers. Given the threat arising from the Forest (Conservation) Amendment Bill of 2023 if passed, we should quickly sort out the boundary issues of deemed forest," said Hoover.

Rakesh, Manish emerge champs at star-studded golf event

The duo of Manish Kumar Verma and Rakesh Rajora bagged the honours of the best Overall Team in the The Golf Foundation (TGF)'s 13th Invitational fund- raiser golf event which was held over two days at the challenging Karnataka Golf Association. The event garnered immense support from distinguished personalities, including renowned cricketers, and Miss India 2023 Runner-up, Shreya Poonja.

The highly anticipated event witnessed an exceptional display of talent, camaraderie, and philanthropy. Manish and Rakesh with a score of 53 Nett outscored the second placed team of Veer Ganapathy and Krishna Prasad who tallied 56 Nett and the pair of Sanjay Gaddipati and Prasanna who scored 58 Nett. Various skill prizes based on activities taken up the TGF engaged the golfers as they pledged their support not only elevated the event but also demonstrated their commitment to nurturing talent and supporting worthy causes.

The generous presence of esteemed personalities added an extra layer of excitement and prestige, making it a truly memorable occasion. Among those who joined the cause were the legendary Syed Kirmani, a member of the 1983 World Cup-winning team, along with former international cricketers Sunil Joshi, Venkatesh Prasad, and Sujit Somasundar.

The winning team of Rakesh Rajora (extreme left) and Manish Kumar Verma (second from right) along with Miss India 1st Runner-up 2023 Shreya Poonja and former Asian Games Games medalist and founder of The Foundation, Amit Luthra strike a pose at the award ceremony.

In addition to its primary objective of raising funds, The Golf Foundation also extended its support to 15 caddy boys and girls from the Karnataka Golf Association (KGA). Former Indian Open champion C Muniyappa's son Prem Muniyappa won the title in the KGA kids category. By assisting these talented and financially disadvantaged individuals, TGF continues its unwavering commitment to providing opportunities to underprivileged youngsters across the nation.

Their inclusion in this prestigious event served as a reminder of the foundation's dedication to creating a more inclusive and accessible golfing community.

The Golf Foundation (TGF) is a non-profit organisation dedicated to supporting talented and financially disadvantaged children across the country. TGF aims to provide opportunities for these youngsters to nurture their passion for golf and pursue their dreams. Through its various initiatives and fundraisers, the foundation continues to make a significant difference in the lives of aspiring young golfers.

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, Krishnappa Ningonda Desai S/o. Ningondappa Basappa Desai R/a. No. 12, Ward No. 12, Ashram Road, Shivyogi Nagar, Vijayapura-586103. I have changed my name to KRISHNAPPA NINGONDAPPA DESAI. Vide affidavit Date: 17.07.2023. Sworn before Notary: Devaraja.E.

I, MINIMOL PAVAGADA W/o. Dr. P. Narayan, Residing at No. 23, Trupti Nilaya, 19th Cross, BHEL Mini Colony, T. Dasarahalli Post, Bengaluru-560057 have changed my name MINIMOL PUTHAMAKULA vide affidavit dated 17.07.2023 Sworn before notary: V.Anjanappa, Bangalore

I, Sarojamma Turuvekere Kempananjaiah w/o Prakash H B R/o 787, Manjuahri, 25th main, 32nd cross, Poornaparajna Lyt, Bengaluru 560061 have changed my name to Sarojamma Tavarekere Kempananjaiah affidavit Dt.17/07/2023 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I Radhaben Tikeshkumar Patel, D/o Tikeshkumar Patel R/o Navu Soni Faliyu, Derol, Derol, Panchmahals, Gujarat - 389320 has changed my name as Patel Radhaben to Radhaben Tikeshkumar Patel vide Affidavit Number IN-KA28337310785293V dated 15/07/2023

I, Prakash Kumar R, R/a. No. 17, 1st Main Road, Mathikere, Bengaluru- 560070. I have changed my minor son name from PAWAN KUMAR P to PAVAN KUMAR P. Vide affidavit Date: 17.07.2023. Sworn before Notary: Devaraja.E.

I, Huzefa Mulla Yakub Chanasmawala s/o Yakub Akbarali Chanasmawala R/o 26/2, 2nd main, 40th A cross Jayanagar 9th block, Bengaluru 560069 have changed my name to Huzefa Yakub Jamali affidavit Dt.17/07/2023 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Irshad Ahmed, R/a No. 77 5th Cross New Shanthi Nagar Behind Police Coutressr K Hegade Nagar Bangalore 77. I have changed my name from Irshad Ahmed Mukkaram to Irshad Ahmed. Vide affidavit dated 17-07-23 sworn before notary Leela Bangalore.

I, Jahangir Hussain, R/a no.7 4th cross akbarimasjid road chamundi nagar RT Nagar post Bangalore 32. I have changed my name from Jehangir Hussain Mohammed Shameem to Jahangir Hussain. Vide affidavit dated 17-07-23 sworn before notary Leela Bangalore.

I, KARTHIK K.S, R/a B004, Skyline Atlantis Apts. Madras Road, Bennigana Halli, Doorvaninagar, Bangalore–16. I, have changed my name to , KARTHIK SHAMANNA, Vide affidavit, dated 15/07/2023 Sworn before Notary:Y.V. Shankar Bangalore

I, Mayank Gaur R/o Fd 35 Hal Senior Officers Enclave C V Raman Nagar Bengaluru Karnataka India 560093 have changed my minor daughter's name from Poornika Gaur to Parineeti Gaur for all purposes.

I, Fatema Saifee Bhagat w/o Huzefa Yakub Jamali R/o 26/2, 2nd main, 40th A cross, Jayanagar 9th block, Bengaluru 560069 have changed my name to Fatema Huzefa Jamali affidavit Dt.17/07/2023 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Khem Chand S/O, Chula Ram R/o A-1802 Alembic Urban Forest, A B Vajapayee Main Road, Channasandra Main Road, Kadugodi Plantation, Bengaluru-560067 have changed my name to Khem Chand Tulsiani for all purposes

I Kumari Anju Srivastava D/O, Ashok Kumar Srivastava R/o B-403, Triguna Palm Springs Apartament, Yelahanka Old Town, Bangalore - 560064 have changed my name to Anju Srivastava for all purposes.

I, AMALA MARY W/o. Lokesh, Residing at No. 59, 4th Floor, 2nd Cross, Beema Jyothi Colony, Basaveshwaranagar Post, Bengaluru-560079 have changed my name AMALA MARY H vide affidavit dated 17.07.2023 Sworn before notary: V.Anjanappa, Bangalore

I, Murtuja s/o Yakub Akbarali Chansamawala R/o 26/2, 2nd main, 40th A cross, Jayanagar 9th block, Bengaluru 560069 have changed my name to MURTAZA affidavit Dt.17/07/2023 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Channabasaua Hosmani S/o Shankar Gowda Hosamani R/o I Block , 303 Block ,3rd Floor , Mantri Alpyne Banashakari Bangalore-560061 have changed my name to Channabasaua Hosamani

I, Swathi Prabhu Kumar D/o Prabhu Kumar R/o No 785 53rd Main 25th Cross 1st Stage Kumaraswamy Layout B'lore-560070 have changed my name to Swathi Prabhu for all purposes

I Dayananda G S/O, Galappa K R/o #02,eranapalya, Srigandhada Kavalu,bangalore North.560091 have changed my name to Dayanand G

I Lohith S/o Dhanraj R/o No 34/35,12th A Main, Hemmanna Badavane, Kogilu, Near India Tanzite Apt, Yelahanka, Bengaluru, 560064 have changed my name to Lohith Dhanraj for all purposes

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Lost of Document
I, Panbarasi. N w/o. Natarajan M. have lost my Possession Certificate of at. #406, 7th main, 10th cross, Padmanabhanagar, Bangalore- 560070 issued by Jayanagar Housing Cooperative society on while travelling from Padmanabhanagar to Chamrajpet. Finders pls contact: 9449233311 or inform nearby the police station.

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Sd/- SANDARSHA .P.B
S/o A.Bhoopala Reddy
Peresandra, Mandikal
hobli, Chickballapur (TQ)
Phone No: 91481 40783

I, Jhansi N, D/o B Nagaraj, R/o Basavanapura, Gottigere, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru - 560083, have lost my ICSE 10th Marks Card Doc No. TT40027550, Unique No. 7376572 issued at Ryan International School, Anekal Taluk, Bannerghatta on 20.05.2023 at Basavanapura. Given police complaint on 11.07.2023 with report no. 0636763/2023. If found please contact on 9845798321

B-Town at Wimbledon

Many celebs stay tuned for game, set, match

Bollywood actors took to their social media handles to congratulate the Wimbledon 2023 winner Carlos Alcaraz, who defeated Novak Djokovic in the Men's singles final.

Sonam Kapoor posted a picture with her husband Anand Ahuja and friends. She wrote in the caption, "What an incredible historical match to watch, with such brilliant company! Congratulations to the insanely talented @carlitosalcarazz and the amazing @djokernole ! @wimbledon #everydayphenomenal"

She also shared glimpses of the matches, their passes, and the food.

Actor Kareena Kapoor also congratulated Carlos for the victory and mentioned on her Instagram stories, "A superstar is born (rainbow, red heart and dizzy emojis). What a play (star emoji) carlitosalcarazz."

Karisma Kapoor also wrote on her Instagram stories, "What a match, still my favourite @djokernole. Congrats to the new kid on the block @carlitosalcarazz."

Anusha Dandekar shared a video of the match and said,"This is crazzzzzy!!!"

"Make way for this young legend. This combo of talent and temperament at 20 is so rare. #Alcaraz #Wimbeldon," tweeted Ayushmann Khurrana.

Neha Dhupia also tweeted, What a finish … heartbroken for @DjokerNole… cheered for both and so pleased for @carlosalcaraz … true sport and true sportsmanship… upto the last point and even further to the final n winning speeches!"

While Riteish Deshmukh shared a clip of the match and called it an "epic game play", What a final : epic game play - @Wimbledon Epitome of power and accuracy @carlosalcaraz - You Champion. Greatest of all time - the legend @DjokerNole- runner up today, champion again tomorrow."

Lara Dutta congratulated Carlos on the victory and mentioned, "The. Most. Incredible. Tennis. Ever!!!! Alcaraz"

Malaika Arora wrote, "A star is born.." and shared the photo of Carlos. **–ANI**

'In Barbie Land, women run everything'

Actress-producer Margot Robbie has given an insight into what makes Barbie land and said women Barbies run everything there.

Ask her about what drew her to the film, she said: "Barbie is such a huge and globally recognised brand with so much nostalgic connection for people. Making a Barbie movie was an amazing opportunity, one we thought we could do something special with if we could approach it in an unexpected, surprising and clever way."

"Like Greta has said, it was also terrifying! We knew it was a lot to take on, as audiences probably have a preconceived notion of how they think and feel about Barbie, whether good or bad. So, that presented a big challenge, but we were up for the challenge." **–IANS**

Presenting, thunder

The highly anticipated action thriller 'Jawan', starring Shah Rukh Khan, continues to captivate audiences with new announcements. King Khan on Monday unveiled the poster of Nayanthara.

Taking to Instagram, SRK treated fans with a new poster featuring Nayanthara.

Nayanthara being a part of Jawan has already raised the bar of this high-octane action entertainer to the next level. As the poster is here, Nayanthara is seen playing a role of a cop.

In the poster, seems like Nayanthara is ready for action as she holds guns in her hands and carried an intense look.

Sharing the poster, SRK wrote, "She is the thunder that comes before the storm!#Nayanthara#Jawan releasing worldwide on 7th September 2023, in Hindi, Tamil & Telugu."

From fans to members of the film industry, everyone went gaga over Jawan's new poster. Actor Sahil Khan wrote, "can't wait."

Seems like the makers are leaving no chance to keep the exhilaration of the audience on the edge by bringing interesting updates from the film.

Recently, Shah Rukh shared bald look poster, where he can be seen flaunting his swag by holding guns in his hands.

Sharing the poster, SRK wrote, "Jab main villain banta hoon na toh mere saamne koi bhi hero tik nahin sakta!#JawanPrevue Out Now!#Jawan releasing worldwide on 7th September 2023, in Hindi, Tamil & Telugu."

Jawan is a Red Chillies Entertainment presentation, directed by Atlee, Produced by Gauri Khan and Co-produced by Gaurav Verma. The film will release worldwide in theatres on September 7th, 2023 in Hindi, Tamil and Telugu languages. Nayanthara and Vijay Sethupathi will be seen sharing the screen with SRK in the film. Deepika Padukone also has a special appearance in the movie. In 'Jawan', fans will also see Priyamani, Sanya Malhotra and Ridhi Dogra in important roles. 'Jawan' is SRK's second release of 2023 after 'Pathaan', which broke several box office records and turned out to be the biggest hit of SRK's career so far. Pathaan was released after SRK's four-year-long hiatus from the movies. **–ANI**

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

From acting to direction!

Siddharth Mahesh who was last seen in Sipayi and Garuda has been busy with his third movie. Siddharth is an engineering graduate, who went on to do a Masters in filmmaking and animation. He prefers Sandalwood than being an engineer at a software company. "Movies are my passion and so I focused on writing scripts and film making. I wrote the script for the movie Garuda. I made my debut in Sandalwood as an actor with Sipayi in 2016," said Siddharth.

Siddharth celebrated his birthday on Sunday and on that day he fulfilled his dream of directing a film." Script work is in progress and the process to select cast and crew will begin soon," he said. Inspired by Duniya Vijay's style of movie making and SS Rajamouli's style of narrating the script, he wanted to helm the movie consisting of rustic characters and crisp screenplay.

Underworld movie

There is no dearth of movies made based on underworld stories of Bengaluru. Now, one more – Don Kumar – with the tagline, Real Story, Real Don, is set to join this list.

The trailer of Don Kumar was released at a function held at Renukamba Preview Theater recently. The movie is helmed by N Nagesh Kumar who wrote the script, dialogues and screenplay. His father DM Narase Gowda has bankrolled the movie.

"This movie is different from the others based on underworld stories. I had worked hard to ensure that all actors acted well. It has 15 action scenes and all of them look realistic. Though the movie is based on an underworld story, it has romance, sentiments and comedy to entertain the audience," said director Nagesh Kumar. He said that he wrote the script based on incidents that took place between 1990 and 2000.

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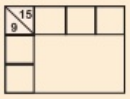
@BangaloreMirror

SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

$$\frac{3^4 - 4^3}{27^{2/3} + 4^{3/2}} = ?$$

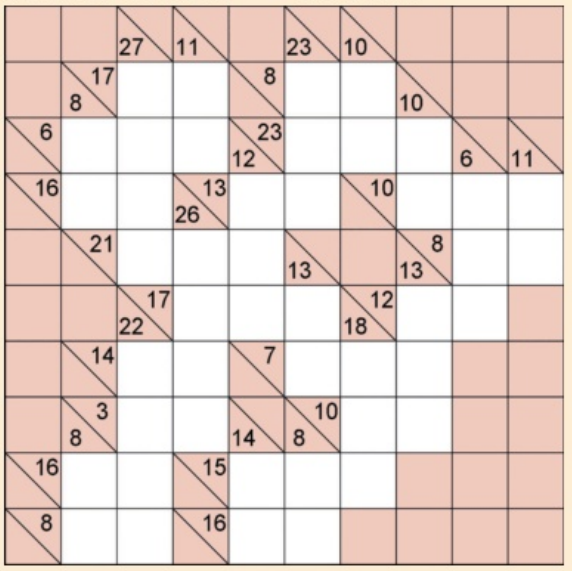
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

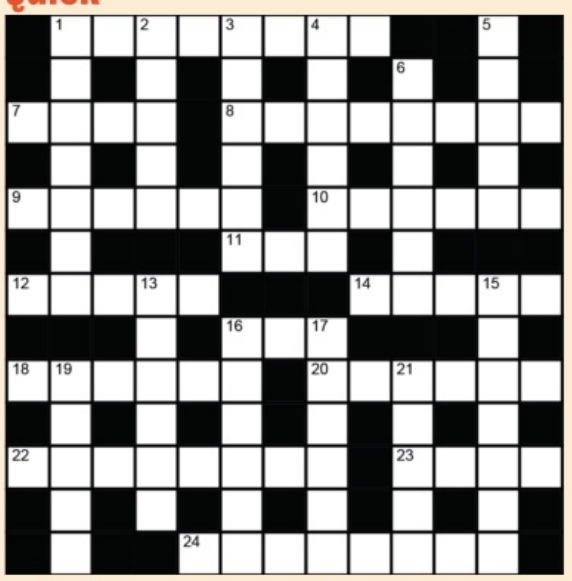


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Theme park located on the Place Grounds (3,5)
7 Pakistani language (4)
8 Withdraws, falls back or rescinds (8)
9 Drenches or marinates; soaks (6)
10 Tension (6)
11 Successful movie (3)
12 Hatchlings (5)
14 Close-packed (5)
16 In addition (3)
18 Greatly surprises someone? (6)
20 Receive (6)
22 Superficial, not lasting (4-4)
23 Attack bitterly (4)
24 Reputation (8)

DOWN

1 Zeal or ardour (7)
2 Important parts of speech (5)
3 Forward dash (6)
4 Most recent ? (6)
5 Doors or entrances (5)
6 Funeral vehicle (6)
13 Trickling or leaking slowly out (6)
15 Young tree? (7)
16 Climbing move (6)
17 Moisten (6)
19 Manufacturer (5)
21 Welsh breed of dog (5)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: H EQUALS O

RCGSN YGNUE EHH KHHS GK KHQGDTTL FSDQQCZEDRTC.

Linemaro

I love you to the depth and breadth and height my soul can reach

Mindchow

Marriage is an investment that pays dividends if you pay interest

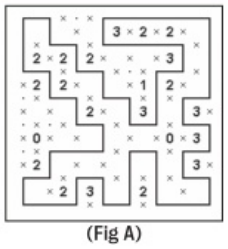
Joke of the day

Why is it called a building when it's already built?

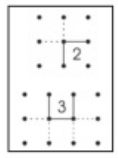
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)



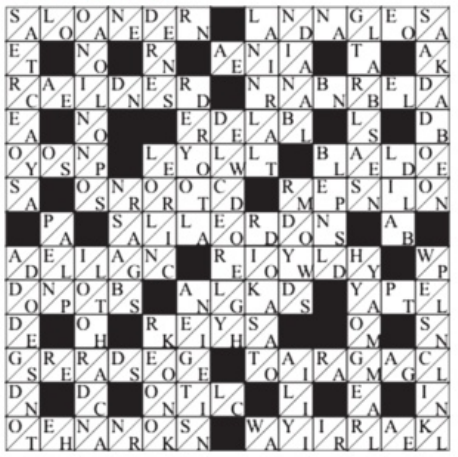
(Fig B) Not Allowed

How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8	H			
9				

ACROSS

1 Bores; 6 Atria; 7 Reask; 8 Whale; 9 Slink

DOWN

1 Raw LB; 2 Irish; 3 One AK; 4 Stake; 5 Laser

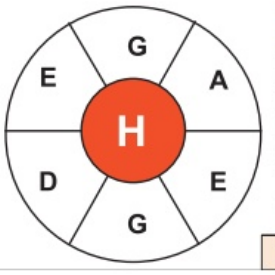
Mensapuzzle

What numbers should replace the question marks?

2 6 30 ?

3 5 11 ?

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

02 Average; 03 Good; 04 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

6				1		8	7	
					8	3		
	9		7	5				
		1	2				6	9
		5				1		
8	2				1	4		
				2	9		3	
		9	8					
	1	6		3				2

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 13

2 6 7 7

Medium = 7

1 2 4 4

Hard = 4

2 6 6 6

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Cigar is shorter. **2.** Lamp is taller. **3.** Front of desk is different. **4.** Tie is moved. **5.** Book is added. **6.** Hand is different.

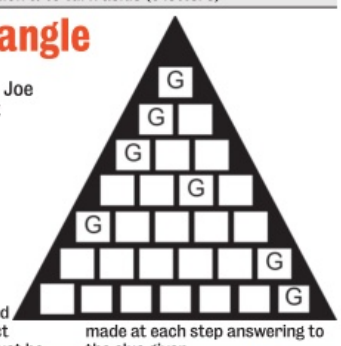
Riddler

Each pair of definitions is for two words, where the second word is the first word with an extra letter added somewhere (example: band & brand). The length of the short word in each pair is provided.

1) a thin flat piece cut from something & to unite two pieces by connecting the ends together (5 letters)
2) the total admission receipts for an event & a striped or clouded quartz (4 letters)
3) to bury & to confine or impound (5 letters)
4) blemish or imperfection & to turn aside (6 letters)

Alpha triangle

1 1000 colloquially
2 American soldier Joe
3 Gimlet ingredient
4 Indication
5 Makes headway
6 Adage
7 Persuading



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

LISTEN, TAWNEE!.. A WOUNDED BUFFALO OFF IN THE DISTANCE
ARE YOU SURE IT'S A BUFFALO?
ARRGH!
4-29
WHAT ELSE COULD IT BE?
MY FATHER HAVING A FIT BECAUSE I'M NOT HOME YET!
Yates/Casson

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

ACHOO!!
BLESS YOU!
YANNO, SNEEZING MEANS YOUR CRUSH IS TALKING ABOUT YOU.
NO, IT'S JUST ALLERGIES.
WHY NOT BOTH?
I LIKE YOUR OPTIMISM, BUT I'M BETTING IT'S JUST ALLERGIES.
HART OF THE CITY © 2023 ANDREWS MCMEEL
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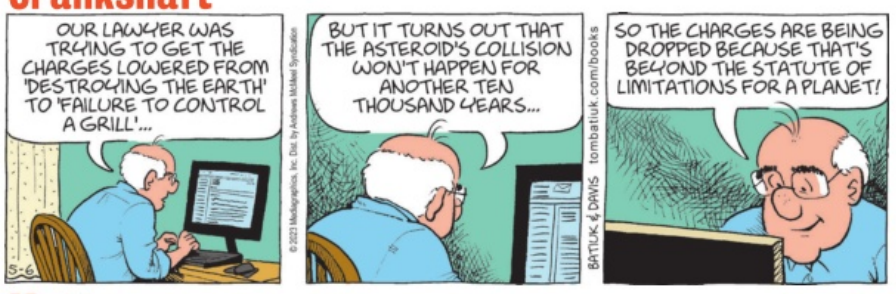
Crankshaft


OUR LAWYER WAS TRYING TO GET THE CHARGES LOWERED FROM 'DESTROYING THE EARTH' TO 'FAILURE TO CONTROL A GRILL'...
BUT IT TURNS OUT THAT THE ASTEROID'S COLLISION WON'T HAPPEN FOR ANOTHER TEN THOUSAND YEARS...
SO THE CHARGES ARE BEING DROPPED BECAUSE THAT'S BEYOND THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS FOR A PLANET!
BATLIK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books
5-6

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today you are blessed by the moon. You may perform well at work and may expect some promotions or transfer in terms of gains. You may also plan to change your current job. Your relations with the boss may be boosted now. Chronic health issues will be resolved now, which may make your family happy.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today things will be under control; you will enjoy your work. Your focus will be good, which will reflect into your way of working. Your wisdom will help you to go ahead in taking difficult decisions in terms of profession. Your past investments will start paying now.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today you may be disappointed with the current position at work or home. You may not enjoy your moment. You may spend your hard earned money buying some worthless stuff, which may affect your savings. You are likely to plan for migration from the current place. You are advised to take care of your parents' health.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today you may make decisions very fast, which may give benefits in day to day life. You may take some difficult decisions with the help of your colleagues; you are likely to get success easily. Property related disputes between siblings are likely to be resolved. You may also expect some short trips.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today you are advised to control your straightforwardness, your loose talking may affect people around you. You may spend your hard earned money buying some worthless stuff. Your mind is likely to work very fast; it is advised to make any important decision with patience.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today you are blessed by the moon; the last couple of days' disappointment may now convert into happiness. You may enjoy professional and personal life; your network may help you to complete your postponed projects. You are likely to start some new venture with the help of your siblings and your network may support you in every step.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today you may feel negativity around you. You may feel impatience. Focus towards goals is likely to be lost. Your grip on your projects are likely to slow down, which may be a reason for loss in the business or work. You may also notice some detachments from your responsibilities, which may affect your day to day routine.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today you are blessed by the moon; new sources of income are likely to open. Your past investments will now start paying in terms of profits. Your losses will convert into profits, which will boost your financial health. Health issues related to parents may be resolved.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today you may implement your business plans with the help of your strong network. You may get a big order with the help of wisdom. There may be good understanding between you and your spouse, which may increase harmony in your domestic life. Love birds may enjoy their happy moments.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today's messy situation is under control. You are blessed by the moon. You may initiate your postponed works. With the blessing, you may get rewarded for your hard work. There are some gains in your business, which may boost your finances. You may spend money on artifacts or literature. You may also plan to travel overseas.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today you may not feel well; you might have health issues, which may affect your profession and domestic life. You are likely to be upset due to your spouse's health issues. Your patience may be tested many times. You are advised not to make investments in new business projects, otherwise you may face losses. Students are advised to avoid fantasy and should work hard in their studies.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today you are blessed by the moon; you may be able to make quick decisions on the professional front. You may expect to get new opportunities in terms of business, which may boost your confidence level. You are likely to start some new innovation with the help of your partner, which may increase your business in the near future.

KIDZONE

B G Puneeth, 8 Years, Vidya Spoorti School

Gajendra Gowda S, 14 Years, St. John High School

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Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M

$\frac{3^4-4^3}{(3^2)^{3/2}+4^{3/2}}$

$\frac{3^4-4^3}{(3^2)^{3/2}+8}$

$\frac{81-64}{9+8}$

$\frac{17}{17}=1$

QUOTE UNCODE

Being right too soon is socially unacceptable.

RIDDLER

1) slice & splice, 2) gate & agate, 3) inter & intern, 4) defect & deflect

FAST FIVE

B	R	O	S	E
R	I	A	T	A
A	S	K	E	R
W	H	E	A	L
L	I	N	K	S

STRIKE OUT

T	H	A	N	K	S	W	I	R	R	A	L			
		N												
S	O	O	N	E	R	A	D	A	G	E	S			
		N												
T	A	R	M	A	C									
		A												
S	E	A	D	O	G									
		E												
O	P	T	S											
		D	E	I	G	N								
		P		A	I	L	E	R	O	N				
		S		S	N	O	O	D						
		Y	O	N		L	O	L	L					
		A		O		R	E	A	L					
		N		R	A	I	D	E	D					
		T		N		R	A	N	I					
				C		O	I	L						
		N		G		E								
		R	A	I	L									
		S	K	I	N	D	E	E	P					
		A		I		C		M		O		L		
A	M	A	Z	E	S		A	C	C	E	P	T		
		O			A	N	D							
B	R	O	O	D			D	E	N	S	E			
		U				H	I	T		S				
S	O	U	S	E	S		S	T	R	E	S	S		
		V		N		U		E		A		E		
U	R	D	U		R	E	T	R	E	A	T	S		
E		O		N		A		H				A		
F	U	N	W	O	R	L	D					G		

QUICK

R		S	T	A	N	D	I	N	G					

MENSA PUZZLE

330 and 41. Multiply the two numbers of the previous pair together to obtain the top number, and add the same two numbers to get the bottom number. So, 30 × 11 = 330, 30 + 11 = 41

BULL'S EYE

EGGHEAD, head, hedge, heed

ALPHA TRIANGLE

				6	5	3	9	1	2	8	7	4		
				4	9	8	7	5	3	2	1	6		
				1	7	2	4	6	8	3	9	5		
				3	4	1	2	8	5	7	6	9		
				9	6	5	3	4	7	1	2	8		
				2	3	9	8	6	9	1	4	5	3	
				5	8	4	1	2	9	6	3	7		
				8	2	7	6	9	1	4	5	3		
				7	1	6	5	3	4	9	8	2		

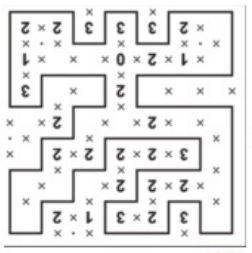
SUDOKU

6	5	3	9	1	2	8	7	4	
4	9	8	7	5	3	2	1	6	
1	7	2	4	6	8	3	9	5	
3	4	1	2	8	5	7	6	9	
9	6	5	3	4	7	1	2	8	
2	3	9	8	7	6	5	4	1	
5	8	4	1	2	9	6	3	7	
8	2	7	6	9	1	4	5	3	

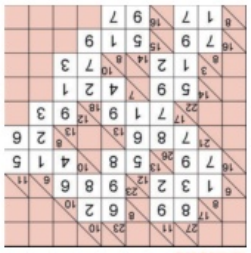
GO FIGURE

Easy
7 × 2 + 6 − 7 = 13
Medium
4 + 4 + 1 − 2 = 7
Hard
6 − 6 − 2 + 6 = 4

LOOP



KAKURO



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